

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-15, 18-19, and 22-26 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 13 are independent.

Interview Summary

The Applicant thanks Examiner Nguyen for discussing this case in a telephone interview on November 13, 2007. In respect of the independent claims, the Lennart reference was discussed, namely the features described at column 8, line 15 of that reference. The differences between the actuators for the keys of the Applicant's keyboard and the support mechanism for the keys of the Lennart keypad were also discussed. At the Examiner's request, the Applicant agreed to amend the independent claims to recite features pertaining to the actuators.

Claim Amendments

The independent claims have been amended to further include features recited at paragraphs [0066]-[0067] and Figures 7A-7B of the Applicant's description, namely that the housing further comprises at least one actuator disposed therein for each of the plurality of keys, wherein each key is biased in a first position by said respective at least one actuator that supports said key, wherein said respective at least one actuator is compressible to allow said key to move to a second position when said key is pressed and to move said key back to said first position when said key is released. Dependent claims 10 and 25 have been amended to recite that each actuator is made of rubber in one embodiment, as described at paragraph [0066]. No new matter has been added.

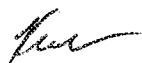
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As noted in the interview, the use of separate, compressible actuators (see e.g. 760 in Figures 7A and 7B) for each key by the Applicant, in combination with the use of lens-shaped keys, provides advantages over the keyboard structure of Lennart. For example, the Applicant's keyboard and keys may be easier to manufacture, and the keys of the keyboard may be easier to replace. The claimed combination of features is neither disclosed nor suggested in Lennart.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 13 recite combinations of features that are both novel and not obvious in view of the cited art, taken alone or in combination, and that the claims that remain in the application and that are dependent on claims 1 and 13 are also patentable for the same reasons.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in form for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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